

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 272

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sherry Elaine Cannady Henderson of Springfield.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Sherry Elaine Cannady Henderson; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Henderson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville on December 26, 1951, Sherry Cannady was the daughter of Ellis Cannady and Effie Tate; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Greenbrier High School's Class of 1969, Sherry Cannady was a member of the girls' basketball team; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Cannady married Phillip Henderson on November 22, 1970, and they were blessed with a son, Steve Henderson, who was born on January 25, 1972; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 1978, tragedy struck when Mrs. Henderson was in a diving accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down; she spent many months in the hospital and in physical rehabilitation. The accident left her confined to a wheelchair, and she became an outspoken advocate for wheelchair access in public spaces, particularly the Robertson County Courthouse, where she was once interviewed by the local news after reporting for jury duty and not being able to enter the building. Soon after, the Robertson County Courthouse installed a much-needed elevator; and

WHEREAS, throughout her many challenges resulting from the accident and her confinement to a wheelchair for four decades, Sherry Henderson never complained; she set a shining example of courage and strength to everyone around her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henderson loved to play cards and 'crow' at family gatherings; she had a special wooden cardholder made so that she never missed any games of Rook or Canasta; and

WHEREAS, even with little dexterity in her hands, Sherry Henderson regained her writing ability and would often handwrite the cards and envelopes she sent out for Christmas and birthdays, which were cherished by family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henderson was an active and devout member of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, where she served faithfully for many years and sang alto in the choir; in addition, she frequently sang in the Christmas Cantata at Spring Hill Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Henderson's faith was central to her life; she not only participated in many church events, but planned and organized them as well. One such event was the Hallelujah Harvest, held for the children in autumn; she also went on mission trips with the church and participated in Shoebox Christmas; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by her parents, Mrs. Henderson was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she will be fondly remembered by her husband of forty-eight years, Phillip Henderson; her son, Steve Henderson; her grandchildren, Victoria Henderson and Bailey Henderson; her sisters, Diann Cannady and Tina Alexander; her brother, Tommy Cannady; her cats, Chester and Daisy; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Henderson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sherry Elaine Cannady Henderson, reflecting

fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Henderson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.